




State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 7, 1998

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Ash Grove Cement Co., County Canyon Mine, M/023/024, Juab County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 1, 1998
Time of Inspection: 10:00 am
Conditions: cloudy and cool
Participants: Alan Finch, Duane Wise, Ash Grove; Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Inspect revegetation test plot prior to removal.

The mine site is within the pinyon/juniper zone with a sparse understory of primarily cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) and sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.). A vegetation test plot was established at the County Canyon mine about 3 years ago to demonstrate that the proposed soils were suitable for plant growth and to fine-tune the seed mix for final revegetation. This inspection is a result of the need of Ash Grove to mine the shale that is underneath the testplot, thus eliminating the testplot and the need to document the final response the vegetation.

Due to recent snow storms in the area, the testplot had a covering of 3-4 inches of snow. There was a couple of small bare spots, and many of the established plants had stems above the snow level. Species observed were crested wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, intermediate wheatgrass, small burnet, alfalfa, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, and sagebrush. A preliminary evaluation indicates that revegetation would be successful following the methodology used in establishing the testplot.

Before the testplot is removed, Ash Grove personnel were advised to quantify the percent ground cover within the test plot and to photo-document the site. This is to be done after the snow melts from the testplot. A minimum of 5 transects of 50 points per transects was suggested as a minimum sample size. The report and copies of the photos is to be supplied to the Division for our records.

cc: Alan Finch